

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims is provided below.

1. (Currently Amended) A sanitary napkin comprising:

an apertured film body-facing cover layer having an open area between about 20% and about 30%,

an absorbent system adjacent said cover layer for receiving liquid therefrom,
a fluid impermeable garment facing layer,

said napkin having a masking value of less than about 115,000, an average fluid penetration time of less than about 45 seconds and an average rewet of less than about .05 grams according to the test procedure described herein;

wherein said absorbent system includes a blend of cellulosic fibers and superabsorbent material;

wherein said absorbent system comprises a first absorbent layer and a second absorbent layer, said second absorbent layer having a basis weight of from about 100 g/m² to about 700 g/m² which has been air-laid as a bottom layer of pulp, a middle layer of pulp intermixed with superabsorbent polymer, and a top layer containing at least some pulp; and

wherein the middle layer comprises a first middle layer adjacent the bottom layer and a second middle layer adjacent the top layer.

2. (Original) The sanitary napkin according to claim 1, wherein said masking value is less than about 100,000.

3. (Original) The sanitary napkin according to claim 2, wherein said masking value is less than about 90,000.

4. (Original) The sanitary napkin according to claim 3, wherein said masking value is less than about 85,000.

5. (Original) The sanitary napkin according to claim 1, wherein said average fluid penetration time is less than 40 seconds.

6. (Original) The sanitary napkin according to claim 5, wherein said average fluid penetration time is less than 35 seconds.

7. (Original) The sanitary napkin according to claim 1, wherein said absorbent system includes a superabsorbent material.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The sanitary napkin according to claim [[9]] 1, wherein said second absorbent layer has a density of more than about 0.25 g/cc.
11. (Original) The sanitary napkin according to claim 10, wherein said second absorbent layer has a density in the range from about 0.3 g/cc to about 0.5 g/cc.
12. (Original) The sanitary napkin according to claim 11, wherein said second absorbent layer has a density in the range from about 0.3 g/cc to about 0.45 g/cc.
13. (Canceled)
14. (Currently Amended) The sanitary napkin according to claim [[9]] 1, wherein said second absorbent layer includes from about 20 weight percent to about 55 weight percent superabsorbent polymer.
15. (Original) The sanitary napkin according to claim 14, wherein said second absorbent layer includes from about 30 weight percent to about 45 weight percent superabsorbent polymer.
16. (Original) The sanitary napkin according to claim 15, wherein said second absorbent layer includes about 40 weight percent superabsorbent polymer.

17. (Currently Amended) The sanitary napkin according to claim [[9]] 1, wherein said second absorbent layer has a basis weight in the range from about 150 g/m² to about 350 g/m².

18. (Previously Presented) The sanitary napkin according to claim 17, wherein said second absorbent layer has a basis weight in the range from about 200 g/m² to about 300 g/m².

19. (Previously Presented) The sanitary napkin according to claim 18, wherein said second absorbent layer has a basis weight of about 250 g/m².

20. (Currently Amended) The sanitary napkin according to claim [[9]] 1, wherein said first absorbent layer is air laid over said second absorbent layer.

21. (Original) The sanitary napkin according to claim 20, wherein said first absorbent layer comprises thermoplastic fibers.

22. (Original) The sanitary napkin according to claim 20, wherein said first absorbent layer comprises a material having a density in the range from about 0.04 to 0.05 g/cc.

23. (Previously Presented) The sanitary napkin according to claim 20, wherein said first absorbent layer comprises a material having a basis weight in the range from about 80

g/m² to about 110 g/m².

24. (Currently Amended) The sanitary napkin according to claim [[9]] 1, wherein said first absorbent layer has a thickness in the range from about 2 mm to about 3 mm.

25. (Currently Amended) The sanitary napkin according to claim [[9]] 1, wherein said second absorbent layer includes from about 5 weight percent to about 60 weight percent superabsorbent polymer.

26. (Original) The sanitary napkin according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the sanitary napkin is less than about 3 mm.

27. (Original) The sanitary napkin according to claim 26, wherein the thickness of the sanitary napkin is about 2.8 mm.

28. (Canceled)